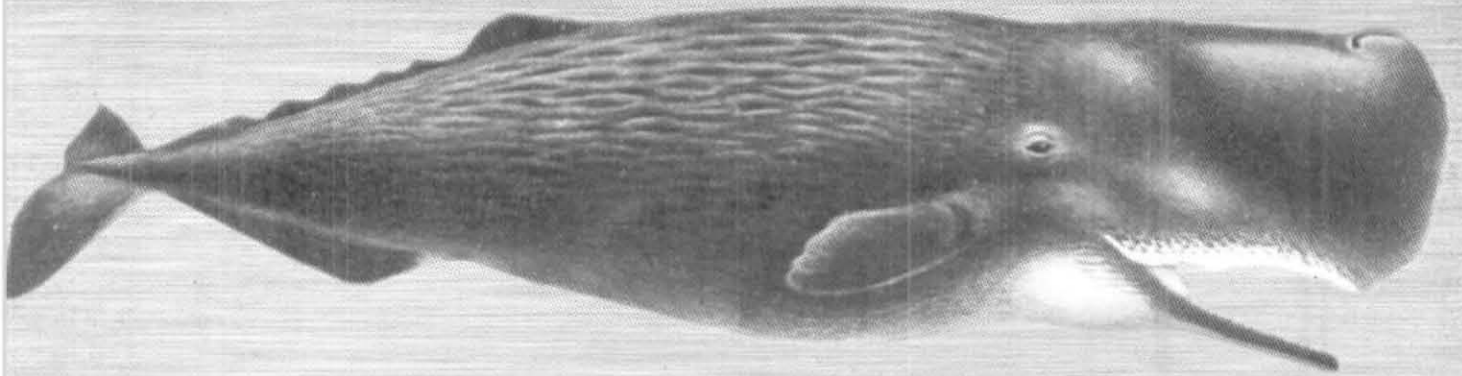




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**CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

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## On a sei whale *Balaenoptera borealis* washed ashore at Pirappanvalasai (Palk Bay) near Mandapam

A male sei whale *Balaenoptera borealis* Lesson (Fig. 1) was washed ashore in dead condition at Pirappanvalasai (Palk Bay) near Mandapam on 26-7-2001. The total length of the whale was 9 metres with an approximate weight of 8 tonnes. The whale might have died in the mid sea due to an inju-



*Balaenoptera borealis* washed ashore at Pirappanvalasai

ry caused by collision with fishing boat in the portion of the notch of the caudal flukes. It had

52 throat grooves which terminated half way between tip of flipper and umbilicus. The morphometric measurements of the sei whale is given below:

Characters	Dimension (cm)
Length from snout to notch of caudal flukes	900
Length from tip of snout to blow hole	180
Length from tip of snout to centre of eye	160
Length from tip of snout to anterior insertion of flipper	235
Length from tip of snout to centre of anus	650
Length from notch of fluke to posterior end of dorsal fin	300
Length of fluke on outer curvature	200
Length of fluke on inner curvature	215

Characters	Dimension (cm)
Length of dorsal fin base	625
Vertical height of dorsal fin	27
Length of flipper from anterior insertion to tip	100
Length of flipper along the curve of lower border	70
Greatest width of flipper	25
Depth of body at anal region	250
Depth of body at origin of flipper	325
Depth of body in region of eye	270
Length of upper jaw	135
Length of lower jaw	175
Diameter of eye	25

Reported by: V. Gandhi and C. Kasinathan, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp.